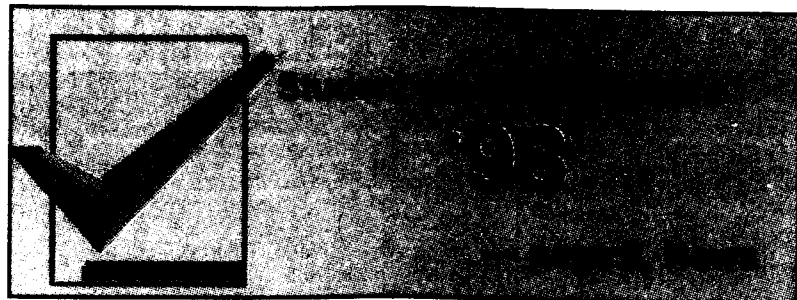




Mid season report
— page 10, Sports



High 64		Low 42
Variable cloudiness. See page 2 for the extended forecast.		
— Campus Weather Service		

the daily Collegian

30°

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Trial begins for man charged in hostage crisis

By RACHEL HANSON, EMILY REHRING and TIM SWIFT
Collegian Staff Writers

BELLEFONTE — The trial of a 35-year-old Boalsburg resident who allegedly held his former fiancée captive and raped her in November began yesterday at the Centre County Courthouse.

Shane A. Dawson allegedly broke into the victim's parents' home Nov. 19 after she had broken off their engagement the night before, the State College Police Department said. She was held captive for seven hours, was raped and had a gun held to her head, according to court documents.

The victim was able to escape with a revolver after Dawson went into the bathroom, according to the documents.

Dawson tried to escape the house later that night when he drove the victim's car out of the closed garage door, according to the documents. He was arrested after driving between 300 and 400 yards, hitting two police cars blocking his path.

Witnesses called by the prosecution yesterday included State College police officers, relatives of Dawson's ex-fiancee, the doctor who examined the woman and a 911 dispatcher who responded to emergency calls the morning of the 19th.

Centre County District Attorney Ray Gricar presented the prosecution's case to Centre County Judge Thomas K. Kistler by setting up the sequence of events and the actions of police officers during the standoff. Gricar also questioned relatives of the victim about her relationship with Dawson.

Cpl. Richard Garis and Detective Ralph Ralston of State College police testified they negotiated with Dawson throughout the standoff.

Garis, who was one of the first officers on the scene, initiated contact early in the morning with Dawson by cellular phone. When Garis spoke with Dawson on the

phone, Garis testified he could hear Dawson's ex-girlfriend in the background.

"In the background, I could hear a female screaming, 'Get me the fuck out of here. He's got a gun, he's going to kill me,'" Garis said.

When Ralston arrived on the scene later in the morning, he assumed control of the negotiations with Dawson. According to Ralston's testimony, Dawson had many demands including cigarettes, resuming traffic on the road and for police to drive around in a circle in a nearby field.

"Mr. Dawson was almost mocking us ... playfully saying things to us," Ralston said.

Numerous attempts by police to get Dawson to surrender himself and release the woman inside throughout the day were unsuccessful. At one point during the day, Dawson's mother unsuccessfully pleaded with her son to end the standoff.

State College police Chief Tom King requested assistance from the Pennsylvania State police during the standoff. Pennsylvania State Emergency Response Team (SERT) arrived at the scene at noon and set up command post in a near-by driveway. When the woman escaped from the house, she ran to members of the team.

"It was the most terrified I have

ever seen someone in my life," said a Pennsylvania State police corporal, who was the first to have contact with the woman after she escaped.

Dr. John Randolph Paine, an emergency room physician, testified yesterday he interviewed Dawson's former fiancée shortly after she escaped. Paine said the woman told him she was physically abused and made to participate in oral and vaginal sex at gunpoint by Dawson. Paine's physical examination proved consistent with her story.

More evidence for the prosecution included taped 911 emergency phone calls.

Please see TRIAL, Page 2.



Collegian Photo/Lee A. McMahon

Jamie Klingler (senior-film and video and women's studies) and Jeremy Kuharcik (senior-broadcast journalism), co-chairs of the class gift committee, announce the Class of 1999's gift to Penn State yesterday on the first floor of the HUB. The class gift committee is giving two aquariums to the HUB/Robeson Cultural Center, which will be completed Fall Semester 1999.

Class of 1999 to donate fish aquariums to HUB after construction completion

By TIM SWIFT
Collegian Staff Writer

The term "HUB fishbowl" soon will have new meaning thanks to the Class of 1999.

The graduating seniors voted last week to place two fish tanks in the soon-to-be-completed HUB atrium as their class gift. Senior Class Gift committee co-chairs Jamie Klingler and Jeremy Kuharcik announced the selection yesterday. Of about 1,000 students, 83 percent voted for the aquarium concept, Klingler said.

The two aquariums, one a 300-gallon saltwater tank for coral reef fish and the other a 120-gallon freshwater tank for African lake

fish, will be installed shortly after the HUB/Robeson Cultural Center construction is completed in Fall Semester 1999, Klingler said.

News of the aquarium selection was greeted by casual onlookers passing through Union Street and a host of administrators, including Vice President for Student Affairs William Asbury.

"(The aquariums are) going to be a regional and perhaps even a state-wide focal point for students," he said.

Asbury said the aquariums will be a tremendous addition to the HUB, adding the "living classroom" aspect is particularly exciting.

The aquariums, aside from their

decorative value, will function as laboratories for teaching environmental science, biology, geology and chemistry to Penn State students as well as State College Area High School students.

The living classroom concept was proposed as part of HUB renovations three years ago by students and faculty from the Penn State Marine Science Society, Asbury said. However, it was not factored into the renovations.

The senior class gift committee has raised \$24,000 thus far; however, the total cost of the aquariums will be \$150,000, Klingler said, adding the committee will work throughout the year to raise the difference.

Justin Zimmerman, an author of the proposal for the living classroom, said the project was revamped and pitched to the senior class gift committee.

"This is very exciting," Zimmerman said. "We hope this will increase the knowledge of marine sciences."

Brooke Goss (sophomore-kinesiology) said she was happy with the choice of the gift committee. The aquariums beat out the other proposals for the 1999 class gift: cultural murals for the HUB and a plan to restore the Pattee lobby.

"I like watching fish," Goss said. "(The aquariums) will be really relaxing to hang out and study by."

UAC committee assists students with disabilities

By KATIE O'HARA
Collegian Staff Writer

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires that no individual with a disability be denied access from benefits of programs, services and use of facilities.

And at Penn State, the University Access Committee is assisting students, faculty and staff with disabilities. Mary Franks, coordinator of ADA programs and UAC chair, said there currently are many small access projects being addressed at University Park.

"There's always something we can be doing. If there are students or faculty who need it — that takes No. 1 priority," Franks said, adding UAC uses a priority management approach when scheduling projects to aid individuals with disabilities.

The 1990 act calls for new construction, alterations and improved access to buildings and facilities that provide services or goods to the public.

UAC, chartered in 1994 to help the university adhere to Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, has received more than \$2 million from the administration in the past four years.

It also receives state funding, which recently has provided University Park with \$8 million for design and renovation projects. At this point, the state has not released funding for Commonwealth Campuses.

Franks and Jim Lettiere, Office of Physical Plant facility resources manager, are striving to have all Penn State campuses establish their own UAC committees so to work with representatives to begin updating campus facilities. The Mont Alto and Hazleton campuses already have begun the process.

UAC also is contemplating holding monthly meetings at different campuses intended to raise aware-

"These are people in positions to get things done. This is a team approach."

— Mary Franks
coordinator of ADA programs and UAC chair

ness about projects and the need for issue assessment on each campus, Lettiere added.

Each situation is dealt with on a case-by-case basis and renovation requests may come from any number of sources. UAC takes a collaborative approach to improving access on campus by incorporating administrative representatives from many areas of the university.

"These are people in positions to get things done," Franks said. "This is a team approach."

In the spring, University Park will host a conference about facilities management at which many Big 10 schools will be represented. It will allow UAC to serve as a model for disability barrier removal for other schools to follow.

"Our process has been proven to be very credible," Franks said. She has been contacted by other universities that are looking to replicate what Penn State has done to work with disability barriers.

Franks has inquired about the possibilities of having some standard materials and parts needed for building improvement in stock so turnaround time would be as minimal as possible.

"I see that over the years more students, faculty and staff are aware of the UAC mission," Lettiere said. "And we do what is needed to get students and faculty to programs and services offered in the buildings."

Senate to discuss university calendar

By CHERYL FRANKENFIELD
Collegian Staff Writer

The university's calendar, including the implementation of a fall break, will be discussed at the University Faculty Senate meeting at 1:30 p.m. today in 112 Kern.

"I am very confident that (fall break) will pass. (The Undergraduate Student Government) fought for it hook, line and sinker," Bryan Shine, USG town senator, said.

If the proposal passes, a two-day fall break would be added to mid-October and Fall Semester 1999 classes would begin Tuesday rather than Wednesday.

USG has been working on the proposal for more than a year. Members have conducted Penn

"Thirteen weeks without a break is just too much."

— David Kayal
Academic Assembly President

State Pulse surveys, consulted with other universities and accumulated more than 4,500 student signatures supporting a fall break. The Association of Residence Hall Students, Interfraternity Council, the Asian American Student Coalition and the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments also support the implementation of a fall break.

The petition, combined with information from comparable universities with fall breaks, will be

influential in passing the proposal, Shine said.

"Thirteen weeks without a break is just too much for any person, especially a college student," said David Kayal, Academic Assembly president. "The only (bad) vibe I got was a slight opposition to losing a day of classes."

Additional calendar changes, such as one that would begin Thanksgiving break at 2:15 p.m. Wednesday, and the expansion of

more course options during the Summer Session, also will be recommended for consideration.

The two six-week sessions would be offered during Summer Session and would allow departments to have more flexibility with scheduling 4-, 6-, 8-, 10- or 12-week courses.

The senate also will review a report of recommendations from the General Education Implementation Committee about language and Intercultural and International Competence requirements.

The report recommends an "option to substitute study in a second language at the third semester or higher levels for any three credits in the general education curriculum."

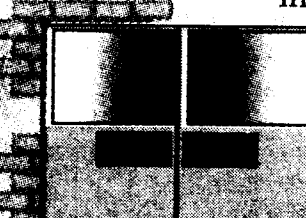
University Access Committee (UAC) Funding Allocations:

University Park	\$1,565,000
Commonwealth Campuses	\$885,000
Total	\$2,450,000

UAC Minor Project Funds Allocations:

University Park	\$649,880
Commonwealth Campuses	\$278,520
Total	\$928,400

Current Work...



Two sets of automatic doors at \$3,000 each were installed in the lower South entrance of Willard Building the day before the beginning of Fall Semester 1998.

E Work will soon begin to install an exterior automatic door (\$3,000) to the North entrance of Cedar Building.

Source: University Access Committee Annual Reports 1996-1998, Budget Summary Fiscal Year 1994-1997

Collegian Graphics/Erin Cruz